



FIELD NOTES

On August 25, 1967, N. M. Downie observed large "colonies" of Gyrinidae on the surface of Grass Lake, St. Lawrence Co., New York. An interest in the composition of one of these associations lead him to select one for study. Collections were made from it by rowing a boat through the group. A small sieve was manipulated from the prow to capture the beetles as the boat went through the colony. About 10 such forays were made through the beetles each time after they had reassembled. Altogether over 200 specimens were taken.

An examination of the specimens revealed that they belonged to two genera and five species. The genus of larger water beetles, Dineutes MacLeay, was in a decided minority, these being only

four specimens of D. assimilis Kby. in the catch. The most common species taken was Gyrinus ventralis Kby., there being more than 150 of these present. Next in order of frequency was G. frosti Fall, which accounted for about 60 specimens. Two other species, G. lugens LeC., and a small unidentified Gyrinus (about 4 mm.) were represented by 4 specimens each.

E. N. Kjellesvig-Waering of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad suggests the easiest method of collecting Cicindelidae is with an aerosol bomb (he finds "Real Kill" to be the best). Getting up-wind from the beetles, he sprays them, taking 50-100 specimens in a few minutes.

Many, if not most species of adult Oedemeridae are host specific, feeding on a great variety of plants. According to R. H. Arnett, few field records of these associations are available. Notes on this made when beating or sweeping will be of great value.

A RANGE EXTENSION OF *PSYDRUS PICEUS* LECONTE (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE) INTO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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The range of *Psydrus piceus* LeConte was formerly thought to extend only as far south as northern California. Ball (1963) had reported the beetle as being present from the forests of northern California to the Lake Superior region. Lindroth (1961) cited it as "Transamerican but rare and erratic in occurrence. S.[outh] to N.[orthern] Calif." It is now apparent that this species also occurs in southern California.

While routinely determining some Carabidae from southern California, I noticed six specimens of *Psydrus piceus*. Four of these were collected by Dr. E. L. Sleeper and Mrs. M. Y. Knox on February 1, 1959 at Brown's Flat, San Dimas Experimental Forest, San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles County. Dr. Sleeper informed me that the beetles were "found in passageways in a rotten pine log." The other two specimens of *Psydrus piceus* were collected by Mr. E. M. Fisher on May 15, 1965 at Poopout Hill, Barton Flats Recreational Area, San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County. According to Mr. Fisher the beetles were taken by peeling bark off of fallen pine trees.

REFERENCES

- BALL, G. E. 1963. Carabidae (Latreille, 1810), The ground beetles. p. 55-181. In R. H. Arnett, Jr., The beetles of the United States. A manual for identification. The Catholic University of America Press, Washington, D. C.
- LINDROTH, C. H. 1961. The ground-beetles (Carabidae, excl. Cicindelinae) of Canada and Alaska. Part 2. Opuscula Entomol. Suppl. XX:1-200. Univ. of Lund, Lund, Sweden.

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CORRECTIONS TO MY KEY TO THE SUBFAMILIES OF THE NEARCTIC STAPHYLINIDAE¹

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An exception has been found to each half of couplet twelve of my key to the subfamilies of the Staphylinidae. Couplet twelve of the key attempted to distinguish members of the Euaesthetinae from members of a large number of other subfamilies on the basis of the segmentation of the tarsi. The first half of couplet twelve stated that the anterior tarsi were four-segmented in the Nearctic Euaesthetinae. However, in *Stictocranius* the anterior tarsi are five-segmented. The second half of couplet twelve, which stated "anterior tarsi five-segmented" led to seventeen other subfamilies including a large number of genera. Among these genera is *Thoracophorus* (subfamily Lispininae) in which the tarsi are three-segmented. Consequently, it is necessary to substitute another character.

The only consistent character known to me may be stated as follows:

12. First segment of maxillary palpi elongate, at least one-half as long as secondEUAESTHETINAE
- First segment of maxillary palpi short, never more than one-third as long as second..... 13

It is unfortunate that this character is difficult to observe in many museum specimens.

The character of the elongate first segment of the maxillary palpi of members of the Euaesthetinae is unusual among the Staphylinidae. A similar condition occurs only in members of the Steninae. In members of the latter subfamily, the condition is more pronounced, the basal segment of the maxillary palpi being as long as, or nearly as long, as the second.

Figure 3 in the same article is labeled *Pinophilus testaceus* Erichson, a *lapsus calami*. It should be labeled *Palaminus testaceus* Erichson.

¹Moore, Ian. 1964. A new key to the subfamilies of the Nearctic Staphylinidae and notes on their classification. Coleopt. Bull. 18:83-91, figs. 1-13.

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